

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In the claims,

Claims 3 and 5 were amended as follows:

Claim 3 (currently amended) An isolated gene encoding a protein that catalyzes the biosynthesis of piperitol from pinoresinol and the biosynthesis of sesamin from piperitol, the protein comprising:

(a) the[an] amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 64, or 78; or
(b) an amino acid sequence that has been modified by at least one of the substitution of one to 10 amino acids of, the deletion of one to 10 amino acids of, insertion of one to 10 amino acids to, and the addition of one to 10 amino acids to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 64, or 78.

Claim 5 (currently amended) An isolated gene comprising [a]the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 65 or 79 as an open reading frame region.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Alex Chang on 05/19/2010.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRENT PAGE whose telephone number is (571)272-5914. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg can be reached on (571)-272-0975. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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